

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-84. (cancelled)

85. (currently amended) A nail for fastening framing members together comprising:

a first member having an elongated segment, a flange segment, and an angular segment that extends between said elongated and flange segments, said angular segment being nonparallel to said elongated and flange segments; and

a second member having an elongated segment, a flange segment, and an angular segment that extends between said elongated and flange segments, said angular segment being nonparallel to said elongated and flange segments,

wherein said elongated segments are substantially parallel to one another and form a tip configured to penetrate adjacent framing members prior to passing through said framing members, said first and second members are configured to receive a driving force that drives a portion of said first and second members through said framing members, ~~[[and]]~~ said driving of said first and second members through said framing members causes said angular segments to move toward one another and said elongated segments to move away from one another thereby fastening said framing members together between said elongated segments and said flange segments, and said flange segments are separate and spaced apart prior to said angular segments moving toward one another.

86. (previously presented) The nail of claim 85, wherein said flange segments are perpendicular to said angular segments.

87. (previously presented) The nail of claim 85, wherein said elongated portions are coupled together prior to being driven through said framing members.

88. (previously presented) The nail of claim 85, wherein said elongated segments are coupled together by a strap that breaks as said first and second members are driven through said framing members.

89. (previously presented) The nail of claim 85, wherein said elongated segments are coupled together with a spot weld that breaks as said first and second members are driven through said framing members.

90. (currently amended) The nail of claim 85, wherein said first and second members are configured to be driven by ~~at least one of an air nailer and a ram-type~~ a force transmitting device.

91. (previously presented) The nail of claim 85, wherein at least one of said angular segments and flange segments is configured to receive said driving force.

92. (previously presented) A nail for fastening framing members together comprising:

a first member having an elongated segment, a flange segment, and an angular segment that extends between said elongated and flange segments, said angular segment being nonparallel to said elongated and flange segments;

a second member having an elongated segment, a flange segment, and an angular segment that extends between said elongated and flange segments, said angular segment being nonparallel to said elongated and flange segments; and

a third member having a tip configured to pierce adjacent framing members and a head configured to receive a driving force,

wherein said elongated segments are substantially parallel to one another with a portion of said third member disposed therebetween prior to passing through said framing members, application of said driving force to said head drives said tip along with said first, second and third members through said framing members, and said driving of said first, second and third members through said framing members causes said angular segments to move toward one another and toward said third member and said elongated segments to move away from one another and away from said third member thereby fastening said framing members together between said elongated segments and said flange segments.

93. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said elongated segments are coupled to said portion of said third member.

94. (previously presented) The nail of claim 93, wherein said elongated segments are coupled to said portion of said third member with at least one spot weld.

95. (previously presented) The nail of claim 94, wherein said spot weld breaks upon said first, second and third members passing through said framing members.

96. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said elongated segments have inner surfaces that form a cavity within which said portion of said third member is disposed prior to being driven through said framing members.

97. (previously presented) The nail of claim 96, wherein said inner surfaces are concave and said portion of said third member is substantially cylindrical.

98. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said angular segments have inner surfaces that form a cavity within which a different portion of said third member is disposed after being driven through said framing members.

99. (previously presented) The nail of claim 98, wherein said inner surfaces are concave and said different portion of said third member is substantially cylindrical.

100. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said elongated segments each have a tip that is adjacent said third member before being driven through said framing members.

101. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said head is on top of said flange segments after said first, second and third members are driven through said framing members.

102. (previously presented) The nail of claim 92, wherein said angular segments and said flange segments are substantially perpendicular to one another.

103. (currently amended) The nail of claim 92, wherein said first, second and third members are configured to be driven by ~~at least one of an air nailer and a ram-type~~ a force transmitting device.

104. (previously presented) A method of fastening framing members together with a self locking nail having first and second members each with an elongated segment, an angular segment and a flange segment, the elongated segments being substantially parallel to one another and the angular segments being non-parallel to one another prior to passing through the framing members, the method comprising:

(a) positioning a tip of the nail adjacent two or more adjacent framing members;

(b) applying a driving force to the nail;

(c) driving the elongated segments through the framing members with said driving force until the flange segments are in contact with one of the framing members; and

(d) separating the elongated segments away from one another as the nail passes through the framing members thereby fastening the framing members together between said elongated and flange segments.

105. (currently amended) The method of claim 104, wherein (b) includes applying said driving force with ~~at least one of an air nailer and ram-type~~ a force transmitting device.

106. (previously presented) The method of claim 105, wherein (b) includes supporting a surface of one of the framing members with a back plate while applying said driving force.

107. (previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the nail includes a third member having a tip on one end configured for driving through the framing members, a head on another end configured to receive a driving force, the third member is positioned between the elongated segments prior to passing through the framing members, and (b) includes applying said driving force to the head of the third member.

108. (previously presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the elongated segments are coupled to the third member prior to being separated and (d) includes uncoupling the elongated segments from the third member.

109. (previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein (d) includes bringing the angular segments toward one another as the nail passes through the framing members.

110. (previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the elongated segments are coupled together prior to being separated and (d) includes uncoupling the elongated segments.